

March 18, 1975

SENATOR KREMER: This is right. Now for a point of information, Mr. Chairman. The Highway Safety Funds are all Federal funds.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: That's right.

SENATOR KREMER: And the Federal funds available for this coming fiscal year is \$1,200,000, that's what we're talking about. It's my understanding that about 40 percent of these funds are allocated to the local entities, the counties, etc.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: I believe that's correct.

SENATOR KREMER: And 60 percent is administered by the state in these same areas to provide for highway safety. Am I right about this? Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Anderson.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think Senator Chambers has addressed himself to a couple of issues that, perhaps, are not centrally involved in this issue of whether the court costs should be raised or not. One of them, of course, is the issue of the quality of justice. The other is the issue of the tie between the Judges Retirement Fund and the decision that a judge might make on whether to convict somebody or not. I think those are separate issues. I think they are valid issues that the Legislature should take a serious look at. I think the question here is if you believe that this segment of our system of government should pay its own way, should bear its own cost, then we have to look simply at the figures that are involved. I did make a quick check with our Fiscal Analysts office to find out what the total budget figure, for this current year, on the county court system is. They indicated that \$2.8 million. Right now the six dollars that's being assessed court costs is raising something in the neighborhood of \$1.3 million. The fiscal statement that's attached to your bill indicates you're raising this some \$350,000 to \$400,000. This indicates that, even with the \$8 and even talking only about this year and this year's budget and the \$20,000 that the judges are receiving now and not giving them any raise at all, this system is not paying its own way, even with the increase. I think that if you believe this system should carry its own weight, then you should look at those figures.

PRESIDENT: Senator Luedtke are you ready to close debate by way of reply.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Senator, I believe it's Senator Chambers motion to close, is it not? No . . . we took care of it.

PRESIDENT: No. Yes.

SENATOR LUEDTKE: Yes I will. I'm ready to close.

PRESIDENT: Your motion is to advanced the bill.